

**U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/512,884
Preliminary Amendment filed w/RCE**

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427).

The applicant's present invention is a device for storing a keyboard (16) between a main unit (14) and a display unit (12) when not in use. A supporting member (20) having an engaging portion (20b) is utilized in an embodiment to support the keyboard (16) while not in use. Utilizing the present invention, it is possible to save space on a surface when the keyboard (16) is not in use.

Clancey et al. is a portable computer (12) with a tiltable keyboard (10). A latch member (76) is used to release a pawl member (80) which lifts the keyboard (10) through the action of a spring (84). The keyboard (10) remains attached and pivots about pivot pin (46).

The primary reference Clancy et al. does not disclose or suggest that the input device can be completely detached from the space. Clancy et al. simply indicates that the input device may pop up from the space and not completely detached as required by independent claims 1 and 7-9. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 7-9 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, comprising:a main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed by between the display unit and the main unit when the input device is not used, wherein the input device is completely detachable from the space.” (Emphasis Added)

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Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-8 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427) is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

The applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the interviews conducted on April 26, 2004 and May 27, 2004. As indicated above the claims have been amended consistent with those proposed in the May 27, 2004 interview.

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Conclusion

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.
Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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